

Editorial: Comparing International Organisations in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Citation for published version (APA):

Dijkstra, H. (2016). Editorial: Comparing International Organisations in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding. *EU-CIVCAP Newsletter*, 1(3), 1.

Document status and date:

Published: 23/08/2016

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Download date: 05 May. 2023

Editorial

Contents

Editorial.....	1
Expert Network	2
Events	2
Publications.....	3
Brexit Blog.....	3
Contact us	4



*Dr. Hylke Dijkstra is an Assistant Professor at Maastricht University, which is leading the “European and international responses to conflict” work package. His most recent book is *International Organizations and Military Affairs* (Routledge, 2016).*

Comparing International Organisations in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

EU-CIVCAP is about developing EU civilian capabilities for sustainable peace. Most of our research therefore focuses on the EU and its activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, but EU-CIVCAP is not solely about the EU. As our application noted, the project “will evaluate the EU’s record to date and compare it to that of other international actors (UN, OSCE)”. In one of our work packages, we take an explicitly comparative approach. What can be gained from comparing the EU’s efforts with those of other international organisations? Three things, I would say.

First, we can establish a better external benchmark, which allows us to ‘measure’ the track record of the EU. Does the EU do better or worse than the UN and the OSCE? It is not easy to evaluate EU policies, so such an external benchmark helps us to put things into perspective.

Second, the EU rarely operates alone in security matters. It is almost always part of a broader international presence in host countries, even if there are no formal links with other international organisations. It is thus critical to study interactions, and to analyse the added value of the EU as part of a broader presence.

Third, the comparative approach allows us to identify best practices in other international organisations and apply them to the EU. This gives us the opportunity to propose informed policy recommendations and give EU policy-makers a better perspective.

During the last six months, various EU-CIVCAP researchers have studied the EU extensively in comparison with the UN

and OSCE. We are now writing up our first major report. Let me provide you with three key findings already.

First, the EU, the UN and OSCE have worked hard over the last decade to improve their mechanisms to rapidly deploy civilian capabilities. The UN Global Field Support Strategy (2010-15) was perhaps the most ambitious project, but the OSCE has established rosters and framework contracts as well. The EU has made crisis management financing more flexible, initiated training modules, developed a warehouse and agreed on a Mission Support Platform.

Second, it is striking that while the EU still sweeps many outstanding challenges under the carpet by citing the ‘political unwillingness’ of member states, the UN and OSCE have gone further, in various aspects. And the UN and OSCE also have a ‘complicated’ membership, to say the least. Lack of political will is too often used as an excuse for lack of progress.

Third, the key challenge for the EU remains mission support. Most of the mission support functions are currently located within the crisis management missions rather than in Brussels (for financial reasons). These functions are carried out by contracted staff. The EU provides insufficient support in terms of pre-deployment and specialised training or more permanent job opportunities. As a result, missions run into frequent trouble with procurement, communication, ICT, and administration.

Our report will be out in the autumn and discusses these issues in depth. One thing has become clear to us as researchers: the more we study other international organisations, the better we understand the EU.

Hylke Dijkstra

Expert Network

Our experts have continued to provide insightful analyses into key issues in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. To access a full list with the EU-CIVCAP Expert Network.

EU-CIVCAP expert **Andrea Malouf** assesses the failure of stabilisation activities that aim to contribute to policy objectives in Syria. She calls for a rethink of joint action on stabilisation and peacebuilding, identifying four particular factors that account for the failure: 1) management of outsourced implementation; 2) joint action, varied interests, 3) commitment bias and measuring success; and 4) implementing blind. [Click here to access the article.](#)

Stefanie Kappler addresses the EU's double standards in peacebuilding vis-à-vis the European neighbourhood by

focusing on Bosnia-Herzegovina. [Click here to access the blog.](#)

"How can we understand the processes and outcomes that arise from frictional encounters in peacebuilding?" asks **Annika Björkdahl**, an EU-CIVCAP expert. The author states that the self-image of the EU as a 'normative power', a 'power for good' and a 'peacebuilder' is based on what the EU *is* rather than what it *does*. The EU's efforts in peacebuilding can be understood through 'friction' that "is an analytical concept that brings to the fore how the EU, its ideas and practices engage with localness, and are changed through these interactions." [Click here to access the op-ed.](#)

Richard Jackson points out the limited success of the EU's peacebuilding efforts in their commentary titled, "Peacebuilding: The missing piece of the

puzzle?" The author argues that genuine peace cannot be built

when it is based on the fundamental belief in the instrumental utility of force, and when it is prepared to use violence to achieve its goals. Such logic can only result in the perpetuation of the broader cultural context that produces violence in the first place. As the last 15 years of the 'war on terror' clearly demonstrate, it is a recipe for perpetual violence and a self-fulfilling prophesy of insecurity.

The author identifies the need to explore the realistic potentiality of nonviolence and pacifist forms of political life as the missing piece of the peacebuilding puzzle. This includes disarmament and the renunciation of violence, as well as civilian-based forms of national defence and the promotion of peace-based national cultures. [Click here to access the commentary.](#)

Events

Forthcoming Events:

Panel on EU Capabilities for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

UACES Annual Conference, London, 5-7 September 2016

The goals of preventing the outbreak of conflict and promoting sustainable peace remain a fundamental challenge to policymakers and analysts alike. The EU and its member states require an adequate set of capabilities if they are to address this challenge in a timely and effective manner. EU-CIVCAP is a large Horizon 2020 project with 12 partners. It provides a comprehensive, comparative and multidisciplinary analysis of EU civilian capabilities for external conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This panel presents early findings from the different work packages, seeks to make the UACES community familiar with the project, and welcomes feedback on the

project. Chair: Sven Biscop, Egmont Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Presentations: Ana E Juncos, Filip Edjus, Michael E. Smith, Hylke Dijkstra, Petar Petrov, Ewa Mahr (EU-CIVCAP)

Panel on International Bureaucracies and Security Governance

ECPR General Conference, Prague, 7-10 September 2016

The study of international organisations and bureaucracies has traditionally been dominated by scholars with a political economy background. After all, in the domain of global trade, finance, health, development policy and environmental affairs, international organisations play a significant role. International bureaucracies in the field of security affairs are, however, also rapidly becoming subject to academic interest. This is a logical outcome of the fact that international

bureaucrats are playing an increasing role in issues such as the planning of peacekeeping operations or the verification of disarmament agreements. We now know much more about the contribution of, for example, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the European External Action Service. Papers in this panel seek to further develop this research agenda in three ways. First, the panel includes papers that apply international organisation theories more systematically to security bureaucracies. Second, it includes papers that take a comparative perspective in analysing multiple security bureaucracies. Third, it includes papers that focus on the role of security bureaucracies in terms of implementation of mandates.

Presentations Hylke Dijkstra, Petar Petrov, Ewa Mahr (EU-CIVCAP)

Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Forum: How to implement the EU Global Strategy

CEPS, Brussels, 29 September 2016, 13:15-14:30

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are at the heart of the EU's external action. Both the Lisbon Treaty and the new Global Strategy attribute special responsibilities and aims to the EU to promote and preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security. Looking at the security map of the Union's outer periphery and further afield, it is clear that the challenges are immense, at a time when internal political cohesion seems weak. How can the EU as a collective make good on the lofty goals that the main legal and policy frameworks ascribe to it?

Chair: Ana Juncos, Bristol University

Presentations:

'Implications of the EU Global Strategy with regard to conflict prevention', Anna Penfrat, Senior Policy Officer, EPLO

'The role of mediation and EU Special Representatives', Erwan Fouéré, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

'Joining up forces with the institutions: what role for the member states?', Ambassador Carola van Rijnsoever, Permanent Representative to the Political and Security Committee (tbc)

Inaugural seminar: 'Research meets policy'

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), Brussels, 25 October 2016

The main objective of the first 'Research meets policy' seminar is to engage policymakers, practitioners and researchers in discussions about how the research-policy-practice nexus can be strengthened. This innovative seminar will identify present and future research needs, assess policy and research capacities, and chart a way forward to better match research outputs with policy needs.

On 17–18 November 2016: Executive Board Meeting, Rome.

On 17–18 November 2016: Consortium Assembly, Rome.

On 17–18 November 2016: Workshop on Technologies, Procedures and Personnel in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, Rome.

Publications

Hylke Dijkstra, Petar Petrov and Ewa Mahr published an article on 'De civiele EU missies in het buitenland' in *Magazine Nationale Veiligheid en Crisisbeheersing* 14(3): 26-27. The article is in Dutch and can be assessed [here](#).

EU-CIVCAP member Hrant Kostanyan and Stefan Meister published a CEPS Working Document titled "Ukraine, Russia and the EU: Breaking the deadlock in the Minsk process".

EU-Russia relations are at their lowest point since the Cold War: the Ukraine crisis continues, and the EU renewed sanctions against Russia for failing to implement the Minsk agreements.

The paper evaluates the lack of implementation of the Minsk agreements and argues that the EU should maintain sanctions against Russia, push for the renegotiation of Minsk II, widen the 'Normandy format' and bolster reforms in Ukraine.

[Click here for the Working Document.](#)

Brexit Blog

A dedicated section of the EU-CIVCAP website continued publishing articles about the implications of Brexit for EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding during May and June (<http://www.eu-civcap.net/category/brexit/>).

If you wish to publish any blogs on the consequences of Brexit for the UK or the EU's ability to deal with conflicts, please contact eu-civcap@bristol.ac.uk.

Ana E. Juncos and Gilberto Algar-Faria assess "The EU Referendum and its Impact on European Security – the ins and outs". They argue that the UK will only be able to manage refugee flows if it is able to deal with the international conflicts that are causing migration in the first place. The authors therefore suggest looking at Brexit and its impact on the UK's ability to deal with conflict more broadly, rather than focusing on

migration and refugee issues alone. [To read the article click here.](#)

Simon Duke and Silvio Rossignoli address the following question: "What would Brexit mean for the UK and EU's ability to deal with conflict?" Being outside of the EU will not allow the UK to convince EU member states that its national interests are shared interests. The UK might even struggle to convince

the US to defend its interests. In addressing challenges such as migration or cyber attacks, the UK will have to seek cooperation with European allies. [To read the full article click here.](#)

Gilberto Algar-Faria and Ana E. Juncos published an article titled “What would Brexit mean for the UK’s conflict prevention and peace-building influence outside the EU?” The authors argue that

outside the EU the UK would be weaker, both in terms of soft and hard power. [To read the full article click here.](#)

Contact us

Website: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eucivcap>

Email: eu-civcap@bristol.ac.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/eucivcap>

EU-CIVCAP Partners (please click a logo for access to the Partner’s website):



ROYAL DANISH DEFENCE COLLEGE

